

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-39 remain pending. Of these claims, claims 1, 20, 22-25, 27, 30, and 33 are independent.

On June 12, 2003, Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination, including a Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 addressing the outstanding prior art rejections. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding prior art rejections at least in view of the detailed patentability arguments presented in the Reply of June 12, 2003.

Claim Amendments

In this Preliminary Amendment, all pending independent claims have been amended to clarify that the "position-coding pattern" yields an absolute position that is used in the control of the printing process.

Newly-Added Claims

Newly-added dependent claims 28, 31, 34, and 38 recite additional details of the claimed position-coding pattern, such details clearly distinguishing over the coding pattern used in the pen-based system of the asserted secondary reference of *Sekendur* (U.S. Patent 5,852,434). Support for newly-added dependent claims 28, 31, 34, and 38 can be found at least in paragraphs [027]-[031] of the specification.

Dependent claims 29, 32, 35-37, and 39 further define characteristics of the position-coding pattern used according to an embodiment of the present invention, specifying that overlapping code windows have at least one symbol in common. These newly-added dependent claims likewise further distinguish over the coding pattern used in the pen-based system of *Sekendur*. Support for these newly-added dependent claims can be found at least at Fig. 4, and the accompanying description in paragraph [026] of the specification.

Newly-added independent claims 30 (apparatus) and 33 (method) are specific to printing control based on an absolute position derived from a position-coding pattern on the printing surface, specifying that the position-coding pattern is based on a cyclic number series having the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a predetermined length is determined unambiguously and which is arranged a plurality of times on the surface with different rotations so that adjacent cyclic number series are displaced relative to each other by predetermined displacements. These newly-added independent claims clearly define over the applied prior art.

Conclusion

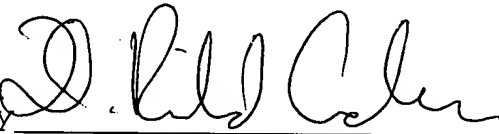
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below,

to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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